

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
8 AT SEATTLE

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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11 Plaintiff,
12 v.
13 THANH CONG PHAN,
14 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR18-0086-JCC

ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on the Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 52) its
16 response to Defendant's competency evaluation (Dkt. No. 53).

17 "There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." W.D. Wash. Local
18 Civ. R. 5(g). To overcome this presumption, there must be a "compelling reason" for sealing
19 sufficient to outweigh the public's interest in disclosure. *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp.,*
20 *LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101 (9th Cir. 2016) (applying the "compelling reason" test to motions to
21 seal documents that are "more than tangentially related to the merits of a case"). The
22 Government seeks to maintain under seal its response to Defendant's competency evaluation.
23 (Dkt. Nos. 52, 53.) The competency evaluation, and the Government's response to it, contain
24 highly personal and sensitive information about Defendant, in which the public has minimal
25 interest. (Dkt. Nos. 53, 54-3.) On this basis, the Court finds a compelling reason to seal the
26 Government's response that outweighs the public's interest in disclosure.

1 For the foregoing reasons, the Government's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 52) is GRANTED.
2 The Clerk is DIRECTED to maintain Docket Number 53 under seal.

3 DATED this 30th day of July 2019.

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7 John C. Coughenour
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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